



WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Division of Economic Support

Bureau of Work Support Programs

**TO: Economic Support Supervisors
Economic Support Lead Workers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators
W-2 Agencies**

FROM: Stephen M. Dow
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Work Programs Section

BWSP OPERATIONS MEMO

No.: 00-41

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Date: 05/26/2000

Non W-2 ☒ **W-2** ☐ **CC** ☐

PRIORITY: High

SUBJECT: REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE & REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

CROSS REFERENCE: BWSP Operations Memos 99-86 & 99-88
Income Maintenance Manual, Chapter IV

EFFECTIVE DATES: The changes for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) are effective April 21, 2000; those for Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) provisions are effective June 20, 2000.

PURPOSE

On March 22, 2000, the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement issued new regulations. This memo describes the changes to RCA and RMA resulting from those new regulations.

BACKGROUND

Earlier regulations established states' AFDC financial eligibility rules and payment standards as the operational rules for the RCA program. Those regulations remained in effect after the enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), the elimination of AFDC, and the subsequent establishment of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Federal refugee funding authorizes 2 special assistance programs:

1. Refugee Cash Assistance which provides monthly cash assistance payments to needy refugees.
2. Refugee Medical Assistance which provides payment of hospital and medical bill in the same manner as the Medical Assistance/Medicaid program.

Both RCA and RMA are available for up to 8 months after a refugee's arrival in the U.S. These programs were established to assist refugees who do not meet the eligibility requirements for W-2, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Medical Assistance/BadgerCare.

The cash payment standard and process for RCA remains the same as the AFDC program in place July 1996; RMA remains tied to MA standards in place July 1996.

In the future, the Final Rule for Refugee Cash Assistance will allow Wisconsin to make RCA consistent with the W-2 program. However, in the interim these rule changes require that changes be made in the short term.

CHANGES AFFECTING REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE

The earned income disregards of the old AFDC program are to be applied in RCA. This means that after a refugee obtains employment, s/he may continue to qualify for an RCA grant if the amount of the monthly earned income, minus the work expense allowance, earned income disregard and dependent care expenses is less than the payment amount. Every employed person in the refugee household who is covered in the RCA payment gets the earned income disregards applied to his/her earnings.

The Work Expense Allowance is \$90 or the individual's gross earned income, whichever is less. It is applied to gross earnings for eligibility and budget tests of applicants and recipients of RCA.

The \$30+1/3 earned income disregard is applied to the earnings of an RCA recipient when doing the Eligibility (Net Income) Test. It is not applied to the earnings of an RCA applicant who has not received an RCA grant in the previous month for the Eligibility Test. Apply the \$30+1/3 earned income disregard to the earnings of an RCA applicant or recipient when doing the Budget Test. The disregard may only be applied for 4 consecutive months. If the person loses employment and has no earned income for a calendar month and has not had the disregard applied to his/her RCA grant for 4 consecutive months yet, the counter is reset.

Do not allow the \$30+1/3 earned income disregard for the month in which a person, during the 30 days preceding that month, without good cause, does any of these actions:

1. Quit a job or voluntarily reduced earned income.
2. Refused a bona fide job offer.
3. Failed to make a timely report (10 days) of income received.

The \$30 earned income disregard is applied to the earnings of all RCA recipients and applicants who have used up their four months of the \$30 & 1/3 disregard. It is applied to both the eligibility and budget tests. The \$30 disregard lasts for the remainder of the time the individual is on RCA.

Apply dependent care expenses to applicants and recipients for both the eligibility and budget tests.

Calculating the \$30+1/3 Income Disregard

1. Deduct \$30 from the person's earned income remaining after subtracting the \$90 deduction for work expenses.
2. Multiply the remainder in step #1 by 1/3.
3. Add \$30 to the result in 2. This is the person's total 30+1/3 disregard.
4. Subtract the 30+1/3 disregard (the amount in step 3) from the person's earned income left after subtracting the \$90 deduction for work expenses (the amount calculated in step #1).

Refugee Assistance Individual Worksheet

Revisions to the Refugee Assistance Individual Worksheet (DES-11008) for calculating the RCA payment amount have been made. A copy of the revised worksheet is attached.

CHANGES AFFECTING REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) is available only to refugees who are not eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) or BadgerCare at the point of initial eligibility determination. It is designed to ensure that arriving refugees get the screening, diagnostic services, and treatment they need to get off to a healthy start.

Refugees, who lose their eligibility for MA/BadgerCare because of earnings from employment, must be transferred to RMA without an eligibility determination if they have been residing in the U.S. fewer than 8 months. This provision is to encourage early economic self-sufficiency by assuring that refugees are not discouraged from early employment by the potential loss of medical coverage.

If a refugee's MA/BadgerCare case will close because of excess hours of employment or income without providing an automatic MA extension (because the client did not yet have 3 months of AFDC-related MA), review the ineligible individuals for a possible RMA extension.

If the client is within the first 8 months of resettlement in the USA, provide RMA eligibility through the end of the 8-month period. Use the Form 3070 to establish an eligibility segment from the end of the MA eligibility to the end of the 8 months after the date of arrival on the I-94 card. This is an automatic extension of RMA; you do not need to redetermine financial eligibility.

CULTURALLY COMPETENT SERVICES

Attached is a listing of language capacities of statewide agencies that receive funding from the Office of Refugee Services (ORS) to provide specialized services. Please refer your clients for appropriate services or programs. We encourage close coordination between W2 and ORS contracted agencies in fields of translation and employment planning. Agencies may explore purchase of service from these agencies.

COUNTY	AGENCY	LANGUAGE	E&T	MED	KEYS	MH	RFS
Brown	Brown County DHS 111 N Jefferson St PO Box 22188 Green Bay, WI 54305-2188 Contract Mngr: Tammy Shortum (920) 448-6000; Fax: 448-6166	Hmong Lao Spanish				X	
	Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Green Bay, Inc. 1825 Riverside Drive Green Bay, WI 54305 Contract Mngr: Karen Johnston (920) 437-7531; Fax: (920) 437-0694	Hmong Lao Spanish B/C/S			X		X
	Integrated Community Services 325 N. Roosevelt St. Green Bay, WI 54301 Contract Mngr: Jon Syndergaard (920) 448-6460; Fax: (920) 448-6465	Hmong Lao Spanish	X				
Dane	Hmong-American Women's Association 2414 W. Vliet Street Milwaukee, WI 53205 Contract Mngr: Mayhoua Moua (414) 342-0858; Fax: 342-0860	Hmong Lao			X		X
	Mental Health Center of Dane County 625 W Washington Ave Madison WI 53703 Contract Mngr: Pancho Oyarbide (608) 280-2480 Fax: 280-2707	Spanish Lao Hmong Cambodian				X	
	United Refugee Services of Wisconsin 1245 E. Washington Ave. Suite 82 Madison, WI 53703 Contract Mngr. Thajying Lee (608) 256-6400; Fax: (608) 256-6501	Albanian Hmong Lao Cambodian Mandarin (Chinese)	X		X		
	Jewish Social Services 6434 Enterprise Lane Madison WI 53719 Contract Mngr: Steven Morrison, (608) 278-1808; Fax: 278-7814	Russian Hebrew French Spanish Farsi Yiddish					
Dunn	Hmong American Community Association 1421 N. Broadway, Suite 116 Menomonie, WI 54751 Contract Mngr: Youa Pao Vang, (715) 232-9350; Fax: (715) 232-9356	Hmong Lao	X		X		

COUNTY	AGENCY	LANGUAGE	E&T	MED	KEYS	MH	RFS
Eau Claire	Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. P.O.Box 45 Independence, WI 54747 Contract Mngr: James Schwartz (715) 985-2391; Fax: (715) 985-3239	Hmong Lao Spanish		X			
	Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association 423 Wisconsin St. Eau Claire, WI 54703 Contract Mngr: See Vang (715)832-8420; Fax: (715) 832-0612	Hmong Lao	X		X		
Fond Du Lac	ADVOCAP P.O. Box 1108 Fond Du Lac, WI 54936 Contract Mngr: Michael Bonertz (920) 922-7760; Fax: (920) 922-7214 OSK/(920) 426-0150; Fax: 426-3071	Hmong Lao B/C/S Spanish	X	X	X		
La Crosse	Lutheran Hospital-La Crosse 1910 South Ave. La Crosse, WI 54601-5400 Contract Mngr: Mary Jo Klos (608) 791-3939	Hmong Spanish				X	
	La Crosse Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association 2615 George St. La Crosse, WI 54603 Contract Mngr: Thai Vue for RFS/MH Denis Tucker for SS/KEYS/TAP/CSE (608) 781-5744; Fax: 781-5011	Hmong Lao Cambodian	X		X		X
Manitowoc	Lake Shore Indochinese Mutual Assistance Association 2411 Wollmer Street, # 209 Manitowoc, WI 54220 Contract Mngr: Viluck Kue (920) 684-1228; Fax: (920) 684-0461	Hmong Lao Vietnamese	X		X		
	Manitowoc County DHS 926 S 8th St PO Box 1177 Manitowoc WI 54221-1177 Contract Mngr: Jeff Jenswold (920)683-4230; Fax: 683-4908	Lao English Hmong				X	

COUNTY	AGENCY	LANGUAGE	E&T	MED	KEYS	MH	RFS
Marathon	Wausau Area Hmong Mutual Association 1109 N. 6th St. Wausau, WI 54403 Contract Mngr: Peter Yang (715) 842-8390; Fax: (715) 842-9202	Hmong Lao	X		X	X	
	Marathon County DSS 400 E. Thomas St. Wausau, WI 54403 Contract Mngr: Tom Buttner (715) 847- 5701; Fax:842- 9477	Hmong			X		
	Wausau School District 415 Seymour Street Wausau, WI 54402-0359 Contract Mngr: Nell Anderson (715) 261-2500/2353; Fax:-2390	Hmong English Spanish German Lao Japanese			X		
Milwaukee	Lao Family 23310 W Vieau Pl. Milwaukee WI 53204 Contract Mngr: (414) 383-4180 Fax (414) 385-3386	Lao Hmong Vietnamese	X		X		
	Hmong American Friendship Association 3824 W. Vliet Street Milwaukee, WI 53208 Contract Mngr: Lo Neng Kiatoukaysy (414) 344-6575: Fax: 344-6581	Hmong Lao					X
	Social Development Commission 231 W. Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53203 Contract Mngr: Gary Graika (414) 643-8444 Fax: 342-0860	Hmong Spanish Lao		X	X		

COUNTY	AGENCY	LANGUAGE	E&T	MED	KEYS	MH	RFS
Milwaukee Consortium	Jewish Family Services Consortium of Voluntary Agency 1360 N. Prospect Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53202 Contract Mngr: Elliot Lubar (414) 390-5800; Fax: (414) 390-5808	Russian Polish Hebrew B/C/S			X		
	International Institute 1110 North Old World 3rd St, Suite 420 Milwaukee, WI 53202 Contract Mngr: Phone (414) 225-6220 Fax (414) 225-6235	Albanian B/C/S Polish Italian German Spanish Hmong Somali Russian Thai Lao					
	Catholic Charities 2021 North 60th Street Milwaukee, WI 53208 Contract Mngr: Phone (414) 771-2881 Ext 147 Fax (414) 771-1674	Albanian Thai French, Spanish Khmer/Lao Vietnamese					
	Lutheran Social Services 647 W Virginia St Suite 300 Milwaukee WI 53204 Contract Mngr: Phone (414) 325-3096 Fax (414) 325-3208	Spanish B/C/S					
	Islamic Family & Social Service 3135 N Teutonia Ave Milwaukee WI 53209 Contract Mngr: Phone (414) 462-4697 Fax (414) 462-8296	Somali					
Outagamie	Theda Care Behavioral Health 1095 Midway Road Menasha, WI 54952 Contract Mngr: John Kemp (920) 720-2300 Fax: 733-2845	Hmong				X	
	Hmong-American Partnership of Fox Valley 2198 S. Memorial Drive Appleton, WI 54915 Contract Mngr: Lo Lee (920) 739-7244/3192 Fax: (920) 739-3687	Lao Hmong	X		X		
Portage	CAP Services, Inc. 5499 HWY 10 East Stevens Point, WI 54481 Contract Mngr: Karl Pnazek (715) 345-5200/5208 Fax: 342-5206/5219	Hmong Lao Spanish	X	X	X		X

COUNTY	AGENCY	LANGUAGE	E&T	MED	KEYS	MH	RFS
Sheboygan	Hmong Mutual Assistance Association of Sheboygan 721 N. 6th St. Sheboygan, WI 53081 Contract Mngr: Cha Song Yang (920) 458-0808; Fax: (920) 458-0081	Hmong Lao B/C/S	X		X		
Wood	Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools 510 Peach St Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 Contract Mngr: Jane M. Jauquet (715) 422-6036/6003; F:422-6070	Spanish Hmong			X		
	North Central Community Action Program 1430 Second Street North Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 Contract Mngr: Ron Schnyder (715) 424-2581; Fax:(715) 424-0771	Hmong	X				

B/C/S = Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian	KEYS = Keeping Education among Youth for Success
E&T = Employment & Training	MH = Mental Health
MED = Micro-Enterprise Development	RFS = Refugee Family Strengthening

CONTACT

DES CARES & Policy Call Center Email: carpolcc@dwd.state.wi.us
 Telephone: (608) 261-6317 (Option #1)
 Fax: (608) 261-6968

Note: Email contacts are preferred. Thank you.